

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A process for preparing substances bearing carbodiimide from isocyanates using water and/or water-containing or -releasing substances, and/or amines and/or ureas as catalysts.

Claim 2 (Original): A process for preparing substances bearing carbodiimide from isocyanates obtained by reacting a mixture of

A) at least one starting compound having at least one isocyanate group,  
B) at least one catalyst in an amount of from 0.01 to 30% by weight, based on the sum of A) and B), selected from

1. water,
2. water-containing and/or water-releasing substances,
3. primary and/or secondary amines,
4. ureas having the structure  $R^1-NH-CO-NR^3R^3$ , where  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each identical or different radicals having from 1 to 15 carbon atoms or H,

C) optionally one or more cocatalysts from the group of metal-containing substances in an amount of from 0.00001 to 1% by weight, based on the sum of A) and B), by holding the mixture of A), B) and, where present, C) at a temperature of from 120 to 300°C and at pressures between 1 and 25 bar for from 5 minutes to 12 hours.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~at least one of the preceding~~  
~~claims~~claim 1,

wherein

the component A) used is cyclohexyl isocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate (IPDI), hexamethylene diisocyanate (HDI), 2-methylpentane diisocyanate (MPDI), 2,2,4-trimethylhexamethylene diisocyanate/2,4,4-trimethylhexamethylene diisocyanate (TMDI), norbornane diisocyanate (NBDI), methylenediphenyl diisocyanate (MDI), diisocyanato-methylbenzene, especially the 2,4- and the 2,6-isomers, and technical grade mixtures of both isomers (TDI), tetramethylxylylene diisocyanate (TMXDI) and dicyclohexylmethyl diisocyanate (H12MDI).

Claim 4 (Original): The process of claim 3,

wherein

IPDI, HDI and/or H12MDI are used.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~at least one of the preceding~~  
~~claims~~claim 1,

wherein

the isocyanates used are isocyanurates, uretdiones, allophanates and/or biurets.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~at least one of the preceding~~  
~~claims~~claim 1,

wherein

the component B2) used comprises inorganic compounds having water of crystallization, molecular sieves, ion exchangers, hydrous polymer gels, for example superabsorbents.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~at least one of the preceding~~  
~~claims~~claim 1,

wherein

the amines B3) used are cyclohexylamine, methylamine, ethylamine, butylamine, dimethylamine, diethylamine, dibutylamine.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~at least one of the preceding~~  
~~claims~~claim 1,

wherein

the urea B4) used is dicyclohexylurea.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~at least one of the preceding~~  
~~claims~~claim 1,

wherein

cocatalysts C) based on tin, zinc and/or bismuth are used.

Claim 10 (Original): The process of claim 9,

wherein

tin(II) chloride, dibutyltin dilaurate, zinc octoate, zinc acetylacetonate and bismuth neododecanoate are used alone or in mixtures.